

CHAPTER 12

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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## CHAPTER 12

### PUBLIC AFFAIRS

#### 1201. GENERAL

a. Since security department personnel are regularly involved in events at which members of the media are present, they will be trained in dealing with the media.

b. If contacted by the media, security department personnel will be courteous and brief and refer the person making the inquiry to the Public Affairs Officer (PAO). It is the role of the PAO to handle all matters with the media, and is the only person authorized to release information to the media.

1202. MEDIA PERSONNEL ENTERING CLOSED AREAS. Duly authorized representatives of the media, i.e., news services, newspaper, radio/television stations or networks, may enter an area closed because of a menace to public health or safety, with the authorization of the on-scene commander. Authorization for such entry will be based initially on the severity of the hazard and/or authorization granted by competent authority. The decision to assume the risk of danger remains with the media individual involved, and it is not the responsibility of security department personnel to provide for the safety of these members of the media who voluntarily choose to subject themselves to danger. Security department personnel, however, do have a moral and professional obligation to protect and preserve human life and will cause the revocation of authorization and removal of such media personnel when warranted.

1203. EXCLUSION OF THE MEDIA FROM CERTAIN AREAS. Media personnel do not have, as a matter of right, special access to sensitive/secured areas of a military installation, including designated Restricted Areas. The media may be permitted, by the commanding officer or designated authority, into areas which have been secured from the general public. Generally, they will not be allowed into areas secured to preserve evidence/where their presence may jeopardize law enforcement operations. In addition, the media may be excluded from areas in which classified information/equipment may be compromised.

1204. MEDIA BRIEFING ROOMS. During events which may generate above normal media interest, special areas will be designated as media briefing rooms. Here members of the media may be segregated and briefed by the designated PAO as events unfold. Media briefing rooms will not be situated where they could interfere with operations.